

Amendments to the Specification

Page 5, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 3 as follows:

In the prior art refractive or reflective optical collectors having optical fibers are used for collecting emitted fluorescence radiation. However, fluorescent light collection efficiency of these collectors is limited by their maximum collection angle. As shown in ~~the following graph~~ Fig. 25, a typical highly efficient collector has a collection cone angle of about  $90^\circ$ , which corresponds to a collection efficiency of 14% in the laser induced fluorescing detection apparatus.

Page 5, please delete the graph beginning on line 9.

Page 11, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 20 as follows:

Fig. 23 is a view of a third embodiment of Fig. 20; ~~and~~

Page 11, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 21 as follows:

Fig. 24 is a view illustrating the construction of the diagnostic system according to the present invention~~[[.]]; and~~

Page 11, after line 22, please insert the following:

--Fig. 25 is a graph showing collection efficiency as a function of numerical aperture for a prior-art optical collector.--